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Message Text

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73
ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 EB-07 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OIC-02 AF-06 EA-06 EUR-12 NEA-09

OES-03 STR-04 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /116 W
---------- 044557
R 062355Z MAY 75
FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7697
INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS
USMISSION USUN
AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
AMEMBASSY QUITO

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ECLA, SUBJECT: OPENING DAY OF ECLA SESSION

DEPARTMENT PASS OTHER POSTS AS APPROPRIATE

1. SUMMARY: FIRST DAY OF ECLA SESSION MARKED BY TOUGH OPENING SPEECHES BY T AND T GOVERNOR GENERAL CLARKE, ECUADORIAN PLANNING CHIEF AGUAYO, AND PRIME MINISTER ERIC WILLIAMS, ALL OF WHOM AIRED FAMILIAR CHARGES AGAINST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND LEAD US TO FEAR CONFRONTATION MAY BE UNAVOIDABLE. UN REP VAN LAETHEM MADE HELPFUL PLEA TO LLK AT MSA'S FIRST AND PATCH UP RELATIONS WITH DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. GRENADIAN PM URGED RELAXATION OF LENDING AGENCY POLICIES TOWARD CARIBBEAN MINIS-STATES. END SUMMARY.

2. SIXTEENTH SESSION OF ECLA BEGAN HERE MAY 6. AGREEMENT QUICKLY REACHED ON ORGANIZATION OF SESSION WHICH HOPEFULLY
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WILL PERMIT TERMINATION TUESDAY, MAY 13, RATHER THAN MAY 15

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PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED, FREEING SOME DELEGATES FOR IDB
MEETING. CHAIRMAN OF PLENARY WILL BE PRIME MINISTER
ERIC WILLIAMS (T&T). FIRST VICE-CHAIRMAN IS GEN. J.
LOAYZA (PERU), SECOND VICE-CHAIRMAN GABRIEL LISETTE
(FRANCE), RAPPORTEUR, HEAD OF COSTA RICA DLEGATION.
OFFICERS OF COMMITTEES TO BE ELECTED MAY 7.

3. AT OPENING CEREMONY IN QUEEN'S HALL, GOVERNOR GENERAL
SIR ELLIS CLARKE LASHED OUT HARD AT A FEW UNNAMED
COUNTRIES WHICH WISH TO MAINTAIN THEIR PRIVILEGES
AND ARE BLOCKING THE FUNDAMENTAL OBJECTIVE OF ESTABLISHING
A NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER. HE CALLED THESE COUNTRIES
"INSINCERE", CHIEF OF ECUADOREAN DELEGATION,
NATIONAL PLANNING BOARD PRESIDENT PEDRO AGUAYO, SPEAKING ON
BEHALF OF ALL DELEGATIONS, MADE THE STANDARD REFERENCES TO
THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER (NIEO) AND THE CHARTER
OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF STATES (CERDS) AND GAVE
JUSTIFICATION FOR ECUADOR'S OPEC POLICY, IMPLICITY
CRITICIZING US TRADE ACT.

4. UN UNDER-SECRETARY GENERAL FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
AFFAIRS, VAN LAETHEM, IN BALANCED PRESENTATION,
URGED REALISTIC ALLOCATION OF PRIORITIES IN LA DEVELOPMENT
GOALS, SUGGESTED "SOMETIMES, AT FIRST, EVEN TO ACCEPT LIMITED
EXPERIMENTS FOLLOWED BY INTERNEDIATE STAGES". HE PLACED
SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON CERTAIN IMMEDIATE, URGENT PROBLEMS
DEMANDING SOLUTION BEFORE LONG-TERM LA DEVELOPMENT
TASKS CAN BE TACKLED, E.G. CRITICAL BALANCE OF
PAYMENTS DEFICITS OF A FEW MSAS, AND LDC EXPORTS
TO THE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES. ON THE LATTER,
VAN LAETHEM STRONGLY IMPLIED THEIR REVIVAL WOULD DEPEND
IN LARGE PART ON A RETURN OF PROSPERITY IN THE
DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. HE COMMENDED VENEZUELA FOR GIVING
SPECIAL TREATMENT TO SOME OF ITS OIL PURCHASERS.

5. PRIME MINISTER WILLIAMS LED OFF AT FIRST PLENARY
MEETING LATER AT CHAGUARAMAS CONVENTION CENTER (FORMER
US NAVAL BASE). WILLIAMS, IN CUSTOMARY PLAIN-SPOKEN FASHION,
LAUNCHED INTO HIS MAIN GRIEVANCES, THE ABUSES OF TRANS-
NATIONAL CORPORATIONS (TNC'S) AND TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY
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FOR WHICH LDC'S "PAY THROUGH THE NOSE". HE PROPOSED
ESTABLISHMENT OF A CENTER TO MONITOR ACTIVITIES OF ALL
TNC'S IN LATIN AMERICA, WHICH WOULD COLLABORATE WITH
TNC RESEARCH CENTER IN ALGIERS. WILLIAMS JEERED AT THE
PLANNED "UNIVERISTY OF THE WORLD" AS A SITE FOR "TRAINING
CHILDREN OF TNC EXECUTIVES". HE URGED CREATION OF A CARIBBEAN
COUNCIL WITHIN ECLA, AND ASKED THAT EFFORTS BE CONTINUED
TO CALM BELIZE AND GUYANA TERRITORIAL DISPUTES.

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6. BAHAMAS AND GRENADA WERE THEN WELCOMED TO ECLA MEMBERSHIP. GRENADIAN PRIME MINISTER FAIRY, WHILE NOTING THAT INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY AND NIEO WOULD BE MAIN FOCUS OF SESSION, URGED CONSENSUS ON SOME "PRACTICAL" PROPOSALS AND SAID GRENADA WOULD OFFER TWO OF ITS OWN: (1) CHANGE IN CRITERIA FOR PRESENTING PROPOSALS TO IDB IN ORDER THAT ALL CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES MAY QUALIFY, AND (2) REFORMS IN WORLD BANK PROCEDURES (PRESUMABLY FOR A SIMILAR PURPOSE).

7. UN ASYG FOR HUMANITARIAN AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS SIPILA REVIEWED APPROVINGLY RESULTS OF RECENT ECLA SEMINAR IN CARACAS, TAKING CARE HOWEVER, NOT TO SUGGEST THAT DECISIONS WERE CONSENSUS OF ENTIRE ECLA MEMBERSHIP.

8. COMMENT: OUR FIRST IMPRESSIONS OF THIS ECLA SESSION ARE THAT THERE WILL BE HEAVY STRESS ON THE UPCOMING 7TH UNGA SPECIAL SESSION, MUCH EMPHASIS ON TNC'S AND MANY COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE US TRADE ACT. THE CLARKE AND AGUAYO SPEECHES SET A TONE OF CONFRONTATION WHICH WILLIAMS DID NOTING TO ERASE. PROSPECTS WILL BE CLEARER AFTER DAY OR TWO. BECAUSE OF CONFLICTING MEETINGS COUNTRIES ARE NOT REPRESENTED AT A HIGH LEVEL. PRESS HERE HAS NOTED THAT CUBA HAS LARGEST DELEGATION APART FROM HOST COUNTRY. THERE HAS BEEN SOME BUZZING ABOUT WHETHER VENEZUELA, MIFFED BY RECENT PUBLIC ATTACKS BY WILLIAMS, MAY DOWNGRADE ITS REPRESENTATION. IN ANY EVENT ITS DELEGATION HEAD PEREZ GUERRERO, MINISTER OF STATE FOR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, IS NOT YET HERE.
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